

Uncle Rod's 'Ukulele Boot Camp'®

A Field Guide
for Non-Music Majors
on how to use the 'ukulele
to make music

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Uncle Rod's 'Ukulele Boot Camp[©]

If someone handed you an 'ukulele,
would you know how to use it to make music?

Uncle Rod's 'Ukulele Boot Camp[©] will help you learn the **basic skills** you must acquire to use the 'ukulele to make music. This "quick & dirty" method does NOT require you to read music or to learn Music Theory.

Very simply, playing the 'ukulele is about learning chords by name & forming them accurately then moving from chord to chord smoothly while strumming the strings in time with the music.

There are only 2 parts to Uncle Rod's 'Ukulele Boot Camp[©]:
learning about **Chord Diagrams** and using **Practice Sheets**.

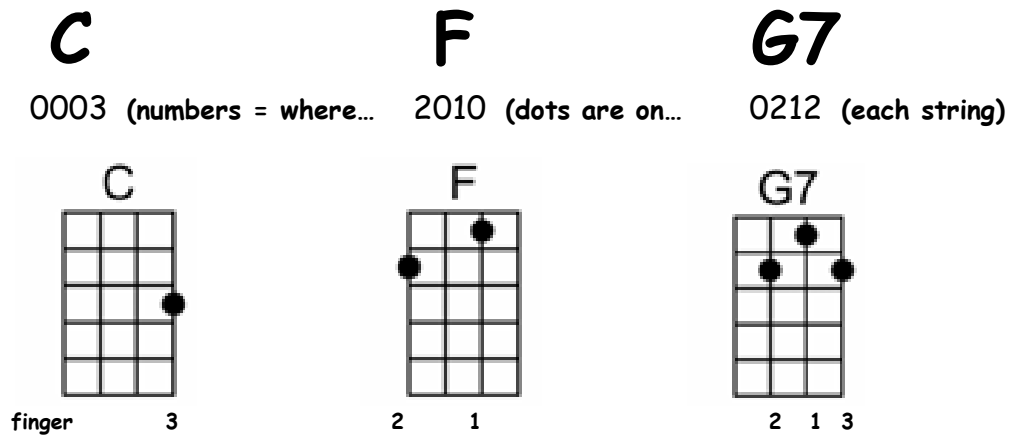
Chord Diagrams show you how to form the chords you will use to make music with your 'ukulele. These **diagrams** represent the top portion of your 'ukulele's finger-board where you will be forming most of the chords.

The 4 **vertical lines** of the diagram correspond to the strings of your 'ukulele. From Left to Right, the names of the lines/strings are G, C, E, and A. [If you are playing an 'ukulele which is tuned differently, please refer to the appropriate chord chart for that tuning and form the chords according to its diagrams.]

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The **horizontal lines** of the diagram represent **frets**, the metal bars across the neck of your 'ukulele. The first (top) line corresponds to the **nut** at the top of the neck. The **nut** helps to position the strings over the fingerboard. (see the diagrams below)



The **dots** on the diagram indicate where your fingers should be placed on the strings to create the chord/sound of a given name. **Finger numbers** (1 - index, 2 - middle, 3 - ring, 4 - pinky) indicate a conventional way to form the chords.

Practice Sheets present a series of "obstacle courses" for your mind and fingers to assist in developing eye-hand coordination, finger strength, and mental dexterity. The challenge is to "play" through each **Practice Sheet** at a steady tempo without looking at your fingers or interrupting your strumming.

The **Practice Sheets** introduce you to frequently used chords in 5 commonly played keys: C, F, G, A, & D. When you have worked through each **Practice Sheet**, you will be able to play many songs written in those keys.

When you have worked through all the **practice sheets**, you will be able to play many songs directly from 'ukulele songbooks. The more you practice, the more skillful you will become at playing the 'ukulele.

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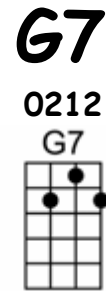
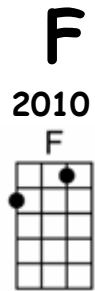
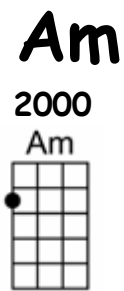
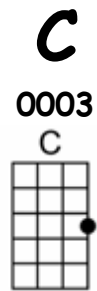
Some Important Guidelines:

1. Always TUNE your ukulele before beginning your practice sessions. Only practice with a properly-tuned instrument.
2. Don't worry about your STRUMMING style or your RHYTHM, yet. Those are the *last* things to work on. For now just practice forming the chords and changing from chord to chord at a regular strumming tempo.
3. Practice by strumming each chord 4 TIMES then smoothly moving to the next chord. Reduce to 3 strums, then 2, then 1 to challenge yourself. But always start with 4 strums per chord.
4. There is NO MELODY for the Practice Sheets. There are only CHORDS and Chord CHANGES. Your Goal is to 'play' through each Practice Sheet smoothly, at a regular tempo. Start as slowly as necessary to ensure a uniform tempo *with smooth chord changes*.
5. Always say/think the NAME of the chord you are playing. You want to know the name of each chord you're forming and strumming.
6. Remember, you are laying a FOUNDATION for all your future 'ukulele efforts.

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Practice Sheet #1 - key of C

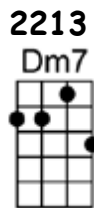
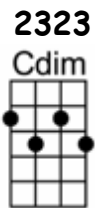


C

C°

Dm7

G7

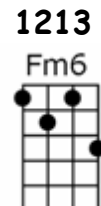
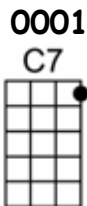


C

C7

F

Fm6

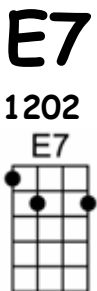
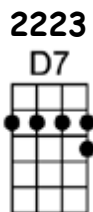


C

Am

D7

G7



Am

D7

G7

C

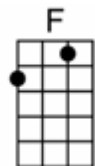
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Practice Sheet #2 - Key of F

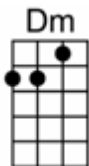
F

2010



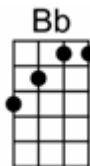
Dm

2210



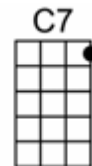
Bb

3211



C7

0001

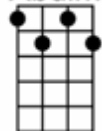


F

F°

1212

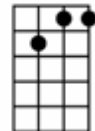
Abdim



Gm7

0211

Gm7



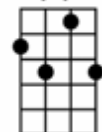
C7

F

F7

2313

F7

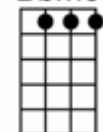


Bb

Bbm6

0111

Bbm6



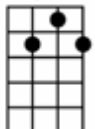
F

Dm

G7

0212

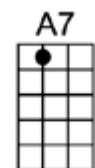
G7



C7

A7

0100



Dm

G7

C7

F

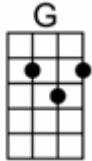
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Practice Sheet #3 - key of G

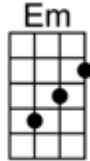
G

0232



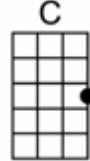
Em

0432



C

0003



D7

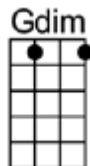
2223



G

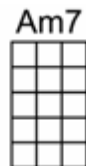
G°

0101



Am7

0000 (this is a real chord, same as C6)

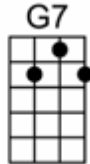


D7

G

G7

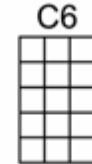
0212



C

C6

0000 (same as Am7)

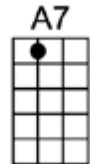


G

Em

A7

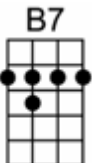
0100



D7

B7

2322



Em

A7

D7

G

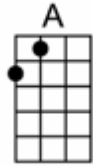
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Practice Sheet #4 - key of A

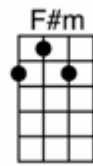
A

2100



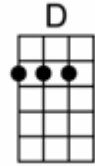
F#m

2120



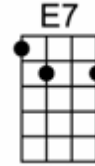
D

2220



E7

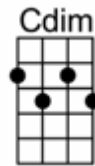
1202



A

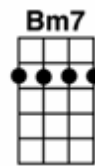
A°

2323



Bm7

2222

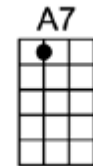


E7

A

A7

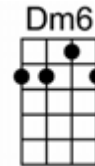
0100



D

Dm6

2212



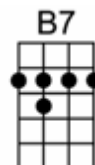
A

F#m

B7

E7

2322



C#7

1112



F#m

B7

E7

A

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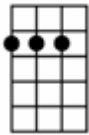
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Practice Sheet #5 - key of D

D

2220

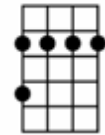
D



Bm

4222

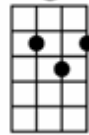
Bm



G

0232

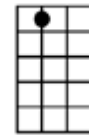
G



A7

0100

A7

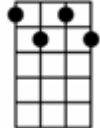


D

D° (also Abdim)

1212

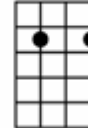
Abdim



Em7

0202

Em7



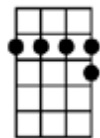
A7

D

D7

2223

D7

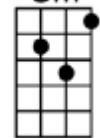


G

Gm

0231

Gm



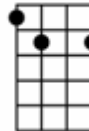
D

Bm

E7

1202

E7

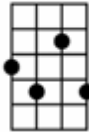


A7

F#7

3424

F#7



Bm

E7

A7

D

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NOTE:

You may have noticed that the 'Boot Camp Method' does NOT teach you how to play specific "songs".

If you are new to the 'ukulele, trying to play songs right from the start may NOT be the best way to learn to play the 'ukulele.

First learn to make music with your 'ukulele (learn the chords and practice chord changes), then play songs. When you attempt to play songs without prior preparation you're doing it the hard way because you do not yet know what the chords are, how to form them, or how to change from chord to chord smoothly.

Until you are familiar with the chords, their names and how to form them, and until you have practiced changing from chord to chord so you can do so easily and smoothly, you are not really in a position to play songs on the 'ukulele.

The fundamentals of playing the 'ukulele are: knowing & forming chords and changing chords smoothly, in time with the tempo of the music. When you can do that, you can play any song.

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